

Memorandum



Date: April 3, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Substantial Amendment to the FY 2008, and FY 2011 Action Plans for the CDBG-R and HOME Programs

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the attached resolution and authorize the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to substantially amend the FY 2008, and FY 2011 Action Plans to accomplish the following:

- Recapture and reallocate \$545,129 in FY 2008 Community Development Block Grant - Recovery (CDBG-R) funds. The CDBG-R funds would be recaptured from the Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM) Department from activities that were either completed under budget, or from activities that PWWM will be unable to complete prior to the CDBG-R expenditure deadline of September 30, 2012. Of the \$545,129 proposed for recapture, \$112,938 would be reallocated to PWWM to undertake three (3) new sidewalk improvement activities and to complete a fourth sidewalk improvement activity. The remaining \$432,191 would be reallocated to Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) to undertake improvements to the Ward Towers Elderly designated Public Housing Project; and
- Allocate \$85,463 in previously unallocated FY 2011 HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program Income. The HOME funds would be awarded to the Barcelona Condominiums project, an activity previously funded under the FY 2005 Action Plan. The HOME funds would enable Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) to cover the Developer's construction retainage and close-out the housing project.

Scope

Exhibits I and II provide the Commission District locations and agencies impacted by the proposed reprogramming of the CDBG-R and HOME funding.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

The reprogramming of the FY 2008 CDBG-R funds and the FY 2011 HOME funds will not create a fiscal impact to the County. The proposed amendment is a reallocation of \$545,129 in unexpended FY 2008 CDBG-R funds that are being recommended for reprogramming. However, if this agenda item is not approved on a timely basis the County will not be able to expend the funds by the required September 30, 2012 expenditure deadline, which would result in a recapture of \$545,129 in CDBG-R funds by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (U.S. HUD).

Additionally, this item allocates \$85,463 in previously unallocated FY 2011 HOME funds to an existing housing activity previously approved in the FY 2005 Action Plan.

Track Record/Monitoring

PHCD monitors all CDBG-R and HOME funded activities. Through the review of quarterly progress reports, PHCD will monitor these projects to ensure compliance with federal guidelines, County policies, and the expenditure of funds within the prescribed expenditure deadlines for the respective programs. The entities being recommended for funding have successful track records for the

completion of activities as specified in their contractual agreements with the County. The recommended reprogramming of funds will enable the implementing entities to successfully complete their respective activities and will enable the County to fully expend the allocated funds by the respective deadlines established by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for each program.

Background

PHCD monitors funded activities throughout the year to ensure that agencies are in compliance with federal regulations and programmatic requirements. As such, PHCD recommends the reprogramming of CDBG-R and HOME funding for activities that: 1) may not be completed within the HUD-mandated CDBG-R expenditure deadline; 2) have undergone substantial changes in project or programmatic scope since the initial BCC approval; and/or 3) have existing funding gaps that impact the ability of the Developer to successfully complete the project. This item allocates or reallocates funds to eligible activities that are characterized as having a high priority capital improvement or housing need in the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs) and/or Eligible Block Groups (EBGs) and have demonstrated an existing funding gap.

FY 2008 CDBG-R Funds

Staff recommends the recapture of \$545,129 in CDBG-R funds from PWWM. Initially, PWWM was awarded a total of \$2,663,231 in CDBG-R funds to undertake drainage, roadway, and/or sidewalk improvement projects in NRSAs and EBGs throughout Miami-Dade County. PWWM has recently advised PHCD that it has successfully completed 16 projects under budget, representing \$478,157 in unexpended CDBG-R funds. These 16 activities, representing a total of \$545,129, are itemized in Exhibit I. In addition, PWWM has requested to cancel one (1) sidewalk improvement activity, since it will be unable to expend the \$66,972 budgeted amount prior to the September 30, 2012 CDBG-R expenditure deadline due to the lengthy process of obtaining right-of-ways for this activity.

PWWM has requested that \$112,938 of the recaptured CDBG-R funds be reallocated back to PWWM to cover three (3) newly proposed activities, and one (1) sidewalk improvement project cost overruns located at *NE 111th Street to NE 115th Street from Biscayne Boulevard to the Railroad Tracks*. Staff supports the reallocation of \$112,938 in CDBG-R funds to PWWM for these four (4) activities, as identified in Exhibit I.

It is recommended that the remaining balance of the recaptured CDBG-R funds in the amount of \$432,191 be reallocated to PHCD. These funds will be used to undertake improvements to Ward Towers Elderly designated Public Housing Project, located at 2200 NW 54th Street, in the Model City NRSA in Commission District 3. Specifically, the funds will be used for spalling concrete repairs, an emergency generator, and to complete handicap accessibility improvements. This proposed activity is further identified in Exhibit I. Based on PHCD's projected timeline, these funds will be expended by the September 30, 2012 CDBG-R expenditure deadline.

FY 2011 Home Funds

Staff recommends an allocation of \$85,463 in FY 2011 HOME program income to Barcelona Condominium, LLC. The Barcelona Condominiums located at 2217 NW 7th Street is a 71-unit affordable condominium housing project being developed by the Barcelona Condominium, LLC. On February 1, 2005, the project was awarded \$1 million in FY 2005 HOME funds via Resolution No. R-160-05. Construction of the project is now complete and final payment of the construction retainage in the amount of \$85,463 is now due. On October 4, 2011, PHCD submitted an item to the BCC via Resolution No. R-782-11, which proposed the recapture and reallocation of CDBG and HOME funds from completed or inactive projects and activities. Given unresolved issues with the Barcelona project, a total of \$85,463 in HOME funds was recaptured from the Barcelona Condominium project, thereby

reducing the HOME award for the Barcelona Condominium project from \$1 million to \$914,536. The Developer has since resolved all outstanding issues and has completed construction of the project. Given the fact that these matters have now been resolved, PHCD recommends the reallocation of \$85,463 to cover the construction retainage amount. This activity is further identified in Exhibit II.

Attachment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'Z' or 'K' with a horizontal stroke at the end.

Deputy Mayor



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: April 3, 2012

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- ☐ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous____) to approve
- ☒ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 8(L)(4)
4-3-12

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR TO
AMEND THE FY 2008 AND 2011 ACTION PLANS TO
REFLECT THE RECAPTURE AND REALLOCATION, OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT-RECOVERY
(CDBG-R) FUNDS AND HOME INVESTMENT
PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME) FUNDS

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying justification memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board ratifies and adopts the matters set forth in the foregoing recital; authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to substantially amend the FY 2008 Action Plan to recapture and reallocate \$545,129 in Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) funds, as indicated in the accompanying justification memorandum and in its Exhibit I; and to amend the 2011 Action Plan to recapture and reallocate \$85,463 in Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, as indicated in the accompanying justification memorandum and in its Exhibit II; authorizes the County Mayor or County Mayor's designee to execute standard shell HOME and CDBG contracts, agreements and amendments, as are required, following approval by the County Attorney's Office and subject to proper execution by the parties; and to exercise the cancellation provisions contained therein.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner
who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner
and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Joe A. Martinez, Chairman	
Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Lynda Bell
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.	Jose "Pepe" Diaz
Sally A. Heyman	Barbara J. Jordan
Jean Monestime	Dennis C. Moss
Rebeca Sosa	Sen. Javier D. Souto
Xavier L. Suarez	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of April, 2012. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Brenda Kuhns Neuman

EXHIBIT I
Community Development Block Grant—Recovery (CDBG-R)

Recapture from:

Agency	Activity Description	Amount	Commission District
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing – NW 183 rd St. to NW 191 st St. and NW 1 st Ave. to NW 2 nd Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	\$ 11,693.84	District 1
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – NW 48 th St. from NW 27 th Ave. to NW 29 th Ave. in Model City NRSA. <i>(Activity cancelled)</i>	66,972.27	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing – NW 71 st St. from NW 7 th Ave. to NW 12 th Ave. in Model City NRSA. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	22,540.80	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage & Sidewalk Improvements – SW 12 th St. from SW 68 th Ave. to SW 72 nd Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	59,726.16	District 6
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements – SW 14 th St. from SW 70 th Ave. to SW 72 nd Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	40,157.46	District 6
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements – SW 21 st St. from SW 67 th Ave. to SW 72 nd Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	30,243.14	District 6
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – SW 62 nd St. to SW 64 th St. and SW 57 th Ave. to SW 59 th Ave. in South Miami NRSA. <i>(Original project scope reduced/Completed under budget)</i>	101,818.45	District 7
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing – SW 157 th Ave. from SW 288 th St. to SW 296 th St. in Leisure City/Naranja NRSA. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	52,879.91	District 8
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements– SW 218 th St. from SW 122 nd Ave. to SW 123 rd Ave. in Goulds NRSA. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	14,947.63	District 9
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements – SW 37 th Terrace from SW 80 th Avenue to SW 82 nd Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	28,402.28	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements – SW 35 th St. from SW 92 nd Ave. to SW 94 th Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	44,635.08	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements – SW 36 th St. and SW 87 th Court. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	49,622.59	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing – SW 37 th St. from SW 95 th Ave. to SW 97 th Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	5,486.88	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing – SW 95 th Ave. from SW 36 th St. to SW 37 th St. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	2,730.78	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – SW 80 th St. from SW 152 nd Ave. to SW 154 th Ave. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	8,546.06	District 11
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – NW 114 th Ave. from Flagler St. to NW 7 th St., Sweetwater. <i>(Completed under budget)</i>	4,726.56	District 12
TOTAL RECAPTURE – CDBG-R:		\$545,129.89	

Reallocate to:

Agency	Activity Description	Amount	Commission District
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – NW 50 th St. from NW 29 th Ave. to NW 32 nd Ave. and NW 31 st Ave. from NW 48 th Terrace to NW 50 th St. in Model City NRSA	\$ 35,500.00	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – NE 111 th St. to NE 115 th St. from Biscayne Blvd. to RR Tracks	3,808.52	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – NW 52 nd St. from NW 29 th Ave. to NW 32 nd Ave. in Model City NRSA	33,000.00	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements – NW 29 th Ave. from NW 51 st St. to NW 54 th St. and NW 53 rd St. from NW 27 th Ave. to NW 29 th Ave. in Model City NRSA	40,630.00	District 3
Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)	Ward Towers Public Housing Project, 2200 NW 54 th St. in Model City NRSA. Work to include spalling concrete repairs, emergency generator, and handicap accessibility improvements.	432,191.37	District 3
TOTAL REALLOCATION – CDBG-R:		\$545,129.89	

EXHIBIT II
Housing Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

Recapture from:

Agency	Activity Description	Amount	Commission District
Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)	Unallocated HOME Reserve	85,463.10	N/A
TOTAL RECAPTURE – HOME:		\$85,463.10	

Reallocate to:

Agency	Activity Description	Amount	Commission District
Barcelona Condominium, LLC	The Barcelona, a 71-unit affordable condominium housing project located at 2217 NW 7 th St., Miami, Florida	85,463.10	District 5
TOTAL REALLOCATION – HOME:		\$85,463.10	

RUSSIA

At least two killed in Russian apartment blast

MOSCOW — (AP) — An explosion apparently caused by natural gas has damaged a nine-story apartment building in southern Russia, leaving two dead and 12 injured. Rescue workers were searching through the rubble, and officials said at least 11 residents of the building are unaccounted for. The blast occurred Monday in Astrakhan, 800 miles southeast of Moscow.

Public Hearing

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING DATE ON THE PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL PLAN AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2008 AND 2011 ACTION PLANS

A public hearing is scheduled for the Economic Development and Social Services Committee Meeting on March 14, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers located on the second level of the Stephen P. Clark Center, 111 NW 1st Street, Miami, Florida. The purpose of the hearing is to give the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed Substantial Amendment to the FY 2008 and FY 2011 Action Plans. The proposed Amendment seeks to recapture and reallocate Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) funds and Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds. The public is invited to attend and comment. If you have any questions concerning this action, or to request accommodations for disabled or non-English speaking residents, please call Solana Williams, Acting Division Director, Resident Services, Community Planning and Outreach Division, Public Housing and Community Development, at 786-498-2100. Federal regulations governing the CDBG-R and HOME programs require that a participating jurisdiction provide citizens with reasonable notice of, and an opportunity to comment on, any Substantial Amendments to the Action Plans.

EXHIBIT I			
Sources of CDBG-R Funds to be Recaptured:			
Agency	Activity Name	Amount to be Recaptured	Commission District
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing — NW 183rd St. to NW 191st St. and NW 1st Ave. to NW 2nd Ave. (Completed under budget)	\$ 1,693.84	District 1
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — NW 48th St. from NW 27th Ave. to NW 29th Ave. In Model City NRSA. (Activity cancelled)	66,972.27	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing — NW 71st St. from NW 7th Ave. to NW 12th Ave. In Model City NRSA. (Completed under budget)	22,540.80	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage & Sidewalk Improvements — SW 12th St. from SW 68th Ave. to SW 72nd Ave. (Completed under budget)	59,726.16	District 6
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements — SW 14th St. from SW 70th Ave. to SW 72nd Ave. (Completed under budget)	40,157.46	District 6
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements — SW 21st St. from SW 67th Ave. to SW 72nd Ave. (Completed under budget)	30,243.14	District 6
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — SW 62nd St. to SW 64th St. and SW 57th Ave. to SW 59th Ave. In South Miami NRSA. (Original project scope reduced/Completed under budget)	101,818.45	District 7
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing — SW 167th Ave. from SW 286th St. to SW 296th St. in Leisure City/Naranja NRSA. (Completed under budget)	52,879.91	District 8
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — SW 218th St. from SW 122nd Ave. to SW 123rd Ave. In Goodys NRSA. (Completed under budget)	14,947.63	District 8
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements — SW 37th Terrace from SW 50th Avenue to SW 42nd Ave. (Completed under budget)	26,402.28	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements — SW 35th St. from SW 92nd Ave. to SW 94th Ave. (Completed under budget)	44,835.08	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Drainage Improvements — SW 36th St. and SW 87th Court. (Completed under budget)	49,622.59	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing — SW 37th St. from SW 95th Ave. to SW 97th Ave. (Completed under budget)	5,486.88	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Roadway Resurfacing — SW 95th Ave. from SW 36th St. to SW 37th St. (Completed under budget)	2,730.78	District 10
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — SW 80th St. from SW 152nd Ave. to SW 154th Ave. (Completed under budget)	8,646.06	District 11
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — NW 114th Ave. from Flagler St. to NW 7th St. Sweetwater. (Completed under budget)	4,726.56	District 12
Total CDBG-R Recapture:		\$545,129.89	

Recommended Redistribution of CDBG-R Funds:			
Agency	Activity Name	Amount to be Reallocated	Commission District
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — NW 50th St. from NW 29th Ave. to NW 32nd Ave. and NW 51st Ave. from NW 45th Terrace to NW 50th St. In Model City NRSA	\$ 35,500.00	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — NE 11th St. to NE 115th St. from Biscayne Blvd. to R.R. Tracks	3,808.52	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — NW 52nd St. from NW 29th Ave. to NW 32nd Ave. In Model City NRSA	31,000.00	District 3
Public Works and Waste Management (PWWM)	Sidewalk Improvements — NW 29th Ave. from NW 51st St. to NW 54th St. and NW 53rd St. from NW 27th Ave. to NW 29th Ave. In Model City NRSA	40,630.00	District 3
Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)	West Towers Public Housing Project, 2200 NW 54th St. In Model City NRSA. Work to include spalling concrete repairs, emergency generator, and handicap accessibility improvements.	432,191.37	District 3
Total CDBG-R Reallocation:		\$545,129.89	

EXHIBIT II			
Source of HOME Funds to be Recaptured:			
Agency	Activity Name	Amount to be Recaptured	Commission District
Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD)	Unallocated HOME Reserve	85,463.10	N/A
Total HOME Recapture:		\$85,463.10	

Recommended Redistribution of HOME Funds:			
Agency	Activity Name	Amount to be Reallocated	Commission District
Barcelona Condominium, LLC	The Barcelona, a 71-unit affordable condominium housing project located at 2217 NW 7th St., Miami.	85,463.10	District 5
Total HOME Reallocation:		\$85,463.10	

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. A person who decides to appeal any action decided by any board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at its meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings. Such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based. Sign language interpreters are available upon request. Please call (786) 469-2100.

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RUSSIA

Report of plot to kill Putin raises doubts

Reports of a plot to kill Prime Minister Vladimir Putin — days before he faces voters in a presidential race — prompt skepticism.

BY SERGEI L. LOKO
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — Security services of Russia and neighboring Ukraine foiled a plan to assassinate Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin organized by an underground movement in the restive North Caucasus region, state television reported Monday.



PUTIN

The report came less than a week before Putin, who is seeking to reclaim the presidency, faces voters in a March 4 election.

Protests by tens of thousands of demonstrators, most recently in Moscow on Sunday, accuse officials loyal to Putin of cheating in par-

liamentary elections in early December. But he still is expected to defeat his four opponents on the first ballot.

Some observers questioned reports of an assassination plot — suggesting that it was either entirely fabricated, or that the news of a real plot was released when it would benefit Putin's campaign.

Russia's main state television channel reported that Ukrainian authorities arrested a Russian after a Jan. 4 explosion in an apartment in the Black Sea port of Odessa. A second person died in the explosion, it said. The survivor provided information leading to the arrest early this month of a third person, who was identified as Adam Osmayev, it said.

In video provided by Ukrainian authorities, a man with a bruised face who was identified as Osmayev said the group was planning to kill Putin after the election using anti-tank mines. "The final goal was to come to Moscow and try and carry out an attempt on

Premier Putin's life," he said. The report said that Osmayev's laptop computer, seized in the raid, contained several video recordings of Putin's motorcade route in and near Moscow made from different vantage points. It said that information provided by Ukraine helped the Russians find a cache of explosives and detonators buried near one of Moscow's major thoroughfares, Kutuzovskiy Prospekt.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, confirmed to the ITAR-TASS news agency that an attempt on his boss' life was prevented.

Some political experts downplayed reports of a plot as little more than a publicity stunt. "Putin seems oblivious to the fact that the country has changed in the last 12 years and people are not going to come out and protect the nation's leader with their bodies in an imaginary plot," said Andrei Pionkovsky, a senior researcher at Moscow's Systems Analysis Institute.

BRITAIN

Tabloids paid police for tips on celebrities, official says

BY JANET STOBART
Los Angeles Times

LONDON — Payments to police and public officials in return for information on celebrities and names in the public domain for stories dealing with little more than "salacious gossip" were common practice at News Corp.-owned tabloids, a British police official said Monday.

Deputy Chief Commissioner Sue Akers made the statement in a continuing civil inquiry into media practices and ethics triggered by the phone-hacking scandal that broke last summer when it was revealed that the News of the World, owned by News Corp., had hacked into the cellphone of teen rape and murder victim

Milly Dowler.

News Corp. chief Rupert Murdoch closed the popular tabloid after an outcry.

Set in motion by Prime Minister David Cameron, the inquiry began a new phase Monday, looking at relations between the media and public officials. So far, it has revealed a widespread culture of phone hacking and surveillance of newsworthy people by journalists that had been all but ignored by police over a decade.

Monday's evidence revealed long-standing illegal payments to police and public officials by journalists working for two of Murdoch's tabloids, the News of the World and the Sun.

The revelations come a

day after Murdoch launched his new Sun on Sunday tabloid.

On Monday, singer Charlotte Church was awarded more than \$950,000 in damages from News Corp. in connection with illegal phone taps and surveillance by tabloid journalists.

High Court Judge Geoffrey Vos said that Church and her parents had been pursued by reporters and photographers since 2002, when the singer was 16.

After the hearing, the 26-year-old singer said she was "sickened and disgusted" by what she had learned about the practices of those "who pursued me and my family just to make money for a multinational news corporation."

SENEGAL | PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

President concedes runoff likely

BY RUKMINI CALLINACHI
Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — After days of predicting that he would win a third term with a crushing majority, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade on Monday acknowledged that he may not have gotten enough votes to avoid a runoff.

Wade didn't take questions and appeared subdued as he met reporters for the first time since Sunday's contentious election, which was preceded by weeks of protests calling for his departure. Wade said that with more than half of the vote counted, he was leading 13



WADE

other candidates with 32.17 percent. He needs more than 50 percent to avoid a runoff.

Experts say that for the 65-year-old to remain in power he needed to win on the first round when the opposition was split between multiple candidates. In a runoff, his chances of winning are much slimmer because the opposition will be united behind a single contender. "To all of my supporters, my allies, my sympathizers,

I ask that you remain mobilized because at this very hour, the trend from votes counted in 282 out of 553 districts — or half the vote — give me the lead with 32.17 percent to 25.24 percent for my nearest opponent," Wade said. "So everything is still possible — victory, or a runoff."

For weeks, life in Senegal has been upended by protests calling for Wade to resign. Analysts have warned of further unrest if he were to win. As votes were being tallied Monday, leading opposition candidate Macky Sall declared that a runoff was "inevitable."

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